

Message Text

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50

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 DODE-00

PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OC-06 CCO-00 OPR-02 A-01

DRC-01 L-03 H-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGR-20 CIEP-02 /117 W

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P R 051505Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1533

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 0915

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ETRN, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH AIRPORTS' GROUND PERSONNEL IN WILDCAT STRIKE

DEPARTMENT PASS FAA

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 0353

(B) STOCKHOLM 0579

(C) STOCKHOLM 0868

1. 700 MECHANICS, BAGGAGE AND FREIGHT HANDLERS, GROUND
CREW PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY SAS AND OTHER PRIVATE EMPLOYERS
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AT STOCKHOLM'S ARLANDA AND BROMMA AIRPORTS AND GOTHEN-

BERG'S TORSLANDA AIRPORT PARTICIPATING IN WILDCAT STRIKE. STRIKE BEGAN MARCH 4 WITH WALKOUT OF SEVERAL HUNDRED AND BROADENED TODAY. NO ESTIMATES BEING MADE AS TO ANTICIPATED LENGTH OF STRIKE.

2. ALL INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS REPORTED TODAY AS TAKING PLACE, ALTHOUGH SOME BEING DELAYED AND BOTH OUTGOING AND INCOMING PASSENGERS REQUIRED TO CARRY OWN BAGGAGE. SHOULD STRIKE CONTINUE INTO MARCH 6 AND BEYOND, DIVERSIONS TO OSLO AND COPENHAGEN POSSIBLE. INCOMING AIR FREIGHT BEING OFFLOADED FOR THE PRESENT BUT, EXCEPT FOR DESIGNATED EMERGENCY SHIPMENTS, NOT RPT NOT BEING FORWARDED TO DESTINATIONS OR WAREHOUSED.

3. STRIKE REFLECTS DISSATISFACTION OF GROUND EMPLOYEES WITH RESULTS OF RECENT LO-SAF GENERAL AGREEMENT FOR WORKERS IN PRIVATE SECTOR (REF A). STRIKERS TO BE COVERED BY BRANCH NEGOTIATIONS BASED ON LO-SAF ACCORD PRESENTLY UNDERWAY BETWEEN LO TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION. STRIKERS COMPLAIN THAT EMPLOYERS' OFFER OF SKR 0.55 PER HOUR (\$0.11) IS FAR LESS THAN SKR 1.10 AND SKR 1.50 OBTAINED BY AIRPORT CIVIL SERVANTS COVERED RESPECTIVELY BY MUNICIPAL (REF B) AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES (REF C) AGREEMENTS. CLAIM THEY SHOULD HAVE SAME WORKING CONDITIONS AS CIVIL SERVANTS INCLUDING, IN ADDITION TO WAGES, SAME VACATION BENEFITS AND SICK BENEFITS. SINCE TRANSPORT WORKERS OUTSIDE OF DOCKWORKERS ARE BOUND BY PEACE OBLIGATION AGREED TO IN LO-SAF ACCORD, STRIKE IS TECHNICALLY A WILDCAT WALKOUT ALTHOUGH LOCAL UNION LEADERS AND TRANSPORT WORKERS' PRESIDENT HANS ERICSON OBVIOUSLY SYMPATHETIC.

4. SAS FOLLOWING STANDARD SWEDISH EMPLOYER TACTIC OF NO NEGOTIATIONS WHILE ILLEGAL STRIKE IS IN PROGRESS. HOWEVER, NEITHER SAS NOR AIRPORTS ARE EQUIPPED TO CONTINUE REGULAR SERVICES INDEFINITELY SHOULD STRIKE CONTINUE ANY LENGTH OF TIME. THEREFORE, PRESSURES FOR EARLY SETTLEMENT SHOULD MOUNT RAPIDLY.

5. ERICSON, "PECK'S BAD BOY" AMONG SWEDISH TRADE UNION UNCLASSIFIED

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BUREAUCRACY DUE TO HARD-NOSED ATTITUDE IN DOCKWORKERS' CONTROVERSY, HAD EARLIER EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH LO-SAF ACCORD. SAID THAT IN LO HASTE TO SIGN 1974 GENERAL AGREEMENT, TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION SHOWED LACK OF SUPPORT FOR TRANSPORT WORKERS IN THEIR DISPUTE WITH INDEPENDENT HARBORWORKERS' UNION. ERICSON NOW USING AIRPORT DISPUTE TO EXPRESS DISSATISFACTION WITH LO-SAF AGREEMENT. LO FARMWORKERS UNION, SIMILARLY

DISENCHANTED, HAS JOINED TRANSPORTWORKERS IN SAYING IT WILL NOT RPT NOT PARTICIPATE IN NEGOTIATIONS LATER THIS YEAR FOR LO-SAF GENERAL AGREEMENT TO BEGIN IN 1975. ALSO MAINTAIN THEIR PARTICULAR NEEDS LOST IN SHUFFLE FOR 1974 ACCORD. LO PRESIDENT GUNNAR NILSSON CRYPTICALLY NOTED ERICSON PARTICIPATED IN NEGOTIATIONS AND SIGNED LO-SAF AGREEMENT.

6. COMMENT: SAS STRIKE IS MOST SERIOUS OF SEVERAL THUS FAR SHORT-LIVED WILDCAT WALKOUTS IN PRIVATE SECTOR TO SHOW DISSATISFACTION WITH RESULTS OF 1974 NEGOTIATIONS. ALL COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN OF THE NATURE THAT IN EAGERNESS TO HAVE EARLY ACCORD LO OBTAINED TOO LITTLE. SUCH RUMBLINGS SO SOON AFTER AN AGREEMENT IS SIGNED ARE UNUSUAL IN SWEDEN AND REFLECT FEARS THAT INFLATION WILL CANCEL OUT OSTENSIBLE GAINS. EVEN MORE UNUSUAL ARE THE CRACKS IN THE FACADE OF SWEDISH TRADE UNION SOLIDARITY REVEALED BY THE TRANSPORTWORKERS' AND FARMWORKERS' THREAT TO GO IT ALONE DURING THE NEXT NEGOTIATIONS.
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